

Presented 3/26/13 to the Montana Senate Judiciary Committee  
Urging Support for House Bill 505  
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As a doctor in Montana for over 20 years, I urge you to vote for House Bill 505. It is a short, simple, and clear bill. Patient protection is too important to leave to chance.

Main points summarized

1. Assisted Suicide encourages people to throw away their lives. Doctors are often wrong when they predict life expectancy. I have witnessed many examples of this. I told you previously of a physician friend who was estimated having roughly 6 months to live after breast cancer metastasized to her lungs, and she is still alive 15 years later, still has a medical practice, still playing tennis. When statistical analysis says an illness has a median survival of less than six months, by definition 50% live less than 6 months, and the other 50% live longer. If assisted suicide becomes legal, there will be Montanans who kill themselves who could have many quality years, maybe a normal lifespan.
2. House Bill 505 protects physicians who offer palliative care. Assisted suicide is totally different from palliation of pain and anxiety which remains legal under HB 505. This is clearly stated in the bill.
3. House Bill 505 clarifies that assisted suicide is not legal and thereby protects my patients. Elder abuse is real and will proliferate if assisted suicide becomes law. I have been witness to countless examples of greed in the battle for my patient's inheritance, including vicious battles over the death bed. I see cases on a fairly regular basis of my patients being taken advantage of for financial gain, usually by family members but not always. One case involved a young man who took advantage of the loneliness of an older female patient of mine. He obtained financial control over this woman by feigning romantic interest in her and isolating her from her family. By the time Adult Protective Services provided a guardian, thousands of dollars had been siphoned. She consented to his coercion because of loneliness and dementia. The same motive of greed could lead to coerced assisted suicide if there was anticipated financial gain, and death could occur quickly, before protection could be put in place.

IT'S GREAT TO BE ALIVE!  
SUPPORT HB 505.



Jeanette Hall, 12 years after her doctor talked her out of physician assisted suicide in Oregon - Click photo to read her story and hear her radio ad with Dr. Paul

Gorsuch supporting HB 505.

TELL YOUR SENATOR TO SUPPORT HB 505! CALL 406 444 4800.

- "Vote for HB 505 to stop a bad situation from getting worse"
- "Because of my mother's experiences, I no longer believe in "physician-assisted suicide." Support House Bill 505."
- "We urge you to vote in favor of HB 505."
- "I hope that you will vote 'Yes' on HB 505"
- "I support House Bill 505, which clearly states that assisted suicide is not legal."

LAW ENFORCEMENT  
VIEWPOINT AGAINST  
ASSISTED SUICIDE



Philip Tummarello, retired Sergeant Inspector - click on photo to see video

VOICES FROM OREGON AND WASHINGTON WHERE ASSISTED SUICIDE IS LEGAL

- "I was afraid to leave my husband alone"
- "If Dr. Stevens had believed in assisted suicide, I would be dead"
- "In Oregon, the only help my patient received was a lethal prescription, intended to kill him."

## 112 Montana Physicians Who Support HB 505!

**PRESS RELEASE** - To view print version, click here.

FOR : IMMEDIATE RELEASE, March 22 2013  
FROM: 112 Physicians Who Support HB 505  
CONTACT: Paul Gorsuch, 406 761 3181, Paul.Gorsuch<pgorsuch@mac.com>

SUBJECT: **Bill Will End the Confusion on Physician-Assisted Suicide; Will Protect Patients and Doctors**

GREAT FALLS - We are 112 Montana physicians who have joined together to support HB 505.

House Bill 505 is a short and simple bill that will clarify the law of physician-assisted suicide by clearly providing that physician-assisted suicide is not legal in Montana. We support HB 505 because it will protect patients and our

profession. See our ad with all of our names, cities and towns now running in many Montana papers.\*

HB 505 will be heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday, March 26, 2013 at 9 am. Call 406 444 4800 and tell the Committee to vote "Yes" on HB 505.

Physician assisted suicide means a physician prescribes a lethal medication to another person to commit suicide. This practice is open to abuse and error.

"Physician-assisted suicide is fundamentally incompatible with the physicians' role as healer, would be difficult or impossible to control, and would pose serious societal risks." (AMA ethics opinion 2.211).

### We Support HB 505

- **We Support HB 505** because it will protect the "Jeanette Halls" of the world. Twelve years ago, she had cancer and decided to "do" Oregon's assisted suicide law. Her doctor talked her out of it and convinced her to be treated instead. Today, she is "thrilled to be alive." Her photo is in our ad. She states: "If my doctor had believed in assisted suicide, I would be dead."
- **We Support HB 505** because it will protect our patients.
- **We Support HB 505** because it is a NORMAL LAW (only two states allow doctors to assist suicides). HB 505 does NOT "send doctors to prison" or prevent doctors from providing the full range of end of life care including palliative care and treatment withdrawal. If you READ THE BILL, this is clear.

\* To read our ad, go here:

[http://maasdocuments.files.wordpress.com/2013/03/doctor-s-hb505\\_ad\\_8-22x17\\_4color319.pdf](http://maasdocuments.files.wordpress.com/2013/03/doctor-s-hb505_ad_8-22x17_4color319.pdf)

To read HB 505 go here:

<http://data.opi.mt.gov/bills/2013/billpdf/HB0505.pdf>

Posted by Admin at 9:45 AM

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WELCOME!

**Tell your legislators to vote "Yes" on HB 505! Call 406 444 4800.**

**Read the Press Release by 112 Montana Physicians Supporting HB 505!**

SENATOR SHOCKLEY SPEAKS AGAINST ASSISTED SUICIDE; WARNS OF ABUSE BY HEIRS



Click on photo to see video

ABOUT PHYSICIAN-ASSISTED SUICIDE

Legal physician-assisted suicide encourages people with many quality years left to throw away their lives.

Legalization is a recipe for elder abuse.

In Oregon, legalization has empowered the Oregon Health Plan to steer citizens to suicide.

In Oregon, other suicides have increased with legalization.

In Washington, the only other state with legal assisted suicide, there have been proposals to expand that law to direct euthanasia of non-terminal people.

For more information, go to Quick Facts About Assisted Suicide.

A RECIPE FOR ELDER ABUSE



Julie's Sign: No assisted suicide. No assisted elder abuse. Preserve choice for seniors.

PRINT OUR HANDOUTS!

- "Aid in Dying" When Dying?